



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #PE2015

Peru

Agricultural Situation

Cold Snap

2002

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Report Highlights:

Unusual cold weather kills 75 people and over 50,000 animals in the southern Andes of Peru

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Lima [PE1], PE

Summary

Unusual cold weather and snow storms have affected the southern highlands of Peru. Seventy-five people have died and over 100,000 have been economically affected. This region is the poorest in Peru, most people are peasants with a few sheep, alpacas or llamas and maybe two or three cows. At 13,000 feet above sea level it has snowed up to 24 inches and the temperature has fallen as low as 20 degrees below zero (centigrade). In the lower highlands, temperatures have dropped to 10 degrees below zero and rain has washed many houses away. In some areas, it has rained as much as 23 liters per square meter.

There are hardly any crops in this area, most land is devoted to pastures for cattle. Latest estimates show that about 30,000 alpacas, 12,000 llamas, 8,000 sheep and at least 2,000 cows have either froze or starved to death. One of the main worries, other than the threat to human lives, is that all pasture land is frozen and cattle will continue dying affecting the poorest among the poor.

The government has started a public and international campaign to alleviate this situation. The Ministry of Agriculture has even flown hay bales to feed the animals, but it has been insufficient.

The USG has provided funding to purchase 5,000 blankets, gloves, wool hats and socks that are being distributed in the most affected areas. The USG has also provided 2,200 MT of lentils, vegetable oil and corn soy blend mix that will feed 60,000 people for two months. The US Navy ship "USS FIFE" donated 1050 lbs of heavy clothing. The USG also donated \$50,000 under Food for Peace.